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www.health.ri.gov

Immunization Program Update

Date: February 25, 2009
To: Pediatric Vaccine Providers
From: Patricia Raymond, RN, MPH, Immunization Program Manager
Subject: Introduction of New Vaccine Products to the RI Childhood Immunization Schedule

On January 20, 2009, the Rhode Island Department (HEALTH) convened the RI Vaccine Advisory Committee for their guidance on vaccine policy changes. After review of several practical and budgetary considerations and in accordance with RI guiding principles for vaccine selection, the State Supplied Vaccine (SSV) for Children program will begin supplying 2 new vaccines: Kinrix and Rotarix.

KINRIX (DTaP/IPV): COMBINATION VACCINE (CPT CODE 90696)

On June 24, 2008, the FDA approved a combination DTaP/IPV vaccine, Kinrix (by Glaxo Smith Kline) that is licensed for use as the fifth dose of the DTaP vaccine series and the fourth dose of the IPV series in children aged 4- 6 years. Kinrix will reduce the number of injections needed to complete DTaP and IPV immunization prior to kindergarten entry. Kinrix is packaged in box of five pre-filled syringes. Kinrix must be refrigerated between 35-46 degrees. DTaP should now only be routinely used at the 15-18 month visit. **As of April 1, 2009, providers can order Kinrix with monthly orders.** There is no new Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for Kinrix. Providers should continue to use the current VIS for DTaP and IPV vaccines.

ROTARIX: NEW ROTAVIRUS VACCINE PRODUCT AND SCHEDULE (CPT CODE 90681)

On April 3, 2008, the FDA approved a second live, oral rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix (by Glaxo Smith Kline). Rotarix is a two-dose series. The routine schedule for administration of Rotarix is at two and four months of age. The minimum age for the first dose is six weeks. The maximum age for the first dose is 14 weeks, 6 days (<15 weeks). The maximum age for the second dose is 8 months, 0 days. The minimum spacing between doses is four weeks. For information see the ACIP recommendations at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s_cid=rr5802a1_e.

The Immunization Program currently provides RotaTaq (by Merck) vaccine as a three-dose series at two, four and six months of age. Rotarix will mean fewer doses in the series and an overall cost savings; therefore, there will be a change of the rotavirus vaccine supplied through the SSV program. **As of April 1, 2009, providers should begin ordering Rotarix instead of RotaTaq with monthly orders.** Rotarix is packaged in a box of ten with each box containing lyophilized vaccine, pre-filled oral applicators, and diluent for reconstituting the vaccine. Only the lyophilized vaccine needs to be refrigerated at 35-46 degrees. The diluent can be stored at room temperature. Rotarix product information is available at: <http://www.fda.gov/CbER/products/rotarix.htm>. The updated VIS for rotavirus vaccine can be ordered online at: http://kidsnet.health.ri.gov/forms/divisions/family_health/form_iz_ed.html.

RotaTaq inventory will be phased out over the next 60 days. Please identify the number of children who have started the Rotateq series and inform HEALTH how many doses are needed to complete the series for those children. HEALTH will deliver the Rotateq doses needed. Practices should avoid starting a child on Rotateq once they start receiving Rotarix inventory. Although the products are interchangeable, we request that providers avoid this practice. However, if any dose in the series was RotaTaq or the vaccine product is unknown for any dose in the series, a total of three doses of rotavirus vaccine should be given. For questions, contact Mark Francesconi at 222-5988 or Mark.Francesconi@health.ri.gov.

HIB VACCINE SUPPLY UPDATE

The national Hib vaccine shortage continues. Providers should continue to defer the booster dose of Hib vaccine at 12-15 months of age for all children except those who are at increased risk (American Indian and Alaskan Native children, and children with sickle cell disease, HIV infection, anatomic or functional asplenia, malignancies or other immunocompromising conditions) for invasive Hib disease. CDC expects the Hib vaccine shortage to ease with the reintroduction of PedvaxHIB Hib (Merck) in the second quarter of 2009. The Immunization Program will continue to temporarily provide Pentacel (combination Hib/DTaP/IPV) vaccine in select practices to maintain adequate supply of Hib vaccine during the current national Hib shortage. Pentacel will not be used in RI once the national restrictions on Hib are lifted.

VACCINE CODING UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2009

As of April 1, 2009, the Rhode Island Childhood Immunization Program will have two new vaccines available for order: Kinrix and Rotarix.

DESCRIPTION	MANF	CVX	CPT	COMMENTS
Kinrix	SKB	130	90696	DTaP-IPV, 4-6 years only
Rotarix	SKB	119	90681	Rotavirus vaccine, 2 doses

It is important that when these vaccines are used that they are recorded correctly in all medical records, EMRs or charts and that appropriate codes are sent to KIDSNET. **Please make any necessary changes to ensure appropriate coding and reporting. Kinrix should be recorded in the medical record as a combination vaccine, not as individual antigens. It is critical that the correct manufacturer of rotavirus vaccine be recorded as the brands have different schedules.**

As of April 1, 2009, the use of RotaTeq vaccine (CVX 116, CPT 90680) will be phased out; however, RotaTeq will remain in use until supplies are exhausted. Providers will need to be able to record and report **both types** of rotavirus vaccine with different codes and manufacturers during the transition.

KIDSNET REPORTING

Paper Data Sheets

1. New data sheets that include both Kinrix and Rotarix will be delivered to your office before April 1. Please discard all old data sheets.
2. Both Rotarix and RotaTeq appear on the data sheets, as both vaccines will be in use during the transition. Please assure that the vaccine marked on the data sheet matches the vaccine used.
3. For those practices receiving Pentacel during the current Hib shortage, continue to write in Pentacel (CPT 90698) in a box marked "Other".
4. If Kinrix is used at 4-6 years of age, do not check off separate antigens.

If you have questions about vaccine coding for paper data sheets please contact Janet Limoges (222-7681) or Denise Cappelli (222-4613).

Electronic Reporting and EMRs

1. Assure that the data for the new vaccines are recorded (in EMR, billing system, encounter sheets) with the appropriate CPT or CVX codes.
2. Note the coding for Rotarix and RotaTeq are different. During the transition both vaccines will be used and must be available to be recorded and transmitted.
3. Please note the manufacturer for RotaTeq is MSD and the manufacturer for Rotarix is SKB.
4. Notify KIDSNET if you are having difficulty making any of these changes.

If you have questions about electronic reporting please contact Kim Salisbury-Keith, 222-5925.